

for SASLC

Heliand (Hld) (HG 308)

- A. London, BL Cotton Caligula A.vii
- B. BL Harley 6018 no. 26
- C. (none)
- D. (none)
- E. (none)

Heliand is the name given to a 9C OS alliterative poem of approximately 6,000 lines, which describes the life of Christ and is written in a style similar to that of the OE biblical epics. The Hld is transmitted in 2 mss. and 3 fragments; the fullest ms. (C=Cotton Caligula A.vii) was copied in southern England in the second half of the 10C (Priebisch 4, 27). Although the ms. was repaginated in 1884, some secondary literature still refers to the older folio numbers: 5-169 for the Hld (new 11-175) (Behaghel xvi, xxxi). A Latin Praefatio first appearing in 1562, in the Catalogus testium veritatis of Flacius Illyricus, refers to the practice of dividing long OE poems into fitts (Behaghel 1), and may originally have referred to C.

The Cotton ms. of the Hld, along with the OE translation of the OS Genesis (q.v.), indicate A-S cooperation in the conversion of the continental Saxons. The script of C. is a Carolingian minuscule influenced by insular orthographic and linguistic forms, so most scholars agree with Priebisch's theory (pp 27-28) that the scribe was an A-S by birth, who learned his minuscule on the continent but returned home and was commissioned to copy a continental ms. (cf. Sievers xv, NRK 172).

(Additional Bibliography)

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